



*Arizona
Game and Fish
Department*

**1999-2000
Annual Report**



A Message from the Director



Duane L. Shroufe

As we entered the new century, Arizona's wildlife resources continued to combat the devastating hardships of a prolonged drought and the impacts of predation. Most of the state was severely impacted by the drought as evidenced by low populations of species such as quail, deer, antelope, and others. Water levels in many of our lakes were at an all-time low, and subsequent impacts on aquatic species and recreational opportunities were dramatic. If winter rains in 2000 prove abundant, this trend could begin to turn; however, any rebound of wildlife populations will likely require more than one wet year.

On the brighter side, the Arizona Game and Fish Department experienced many important successes this year. We continued our involvement with reintroduction efforts for black-footed ferrets, California condors, Gila Trout and Mexican gray wolves; we funded 25 Heritage Fund grants which resulted in nearly \$2 million in projects to benefit wildlife and wildlife education; we remained involved in efforts to restock Gould's turkey into southeastern Arizona; we successfully obtained public access into portions of the Chiricahua Mountains; waterfowl and other species benefited from a 30-year wetland-conservation easement at Hay Lake; elk were captured in Arizona and relocated to Kentucky to re-establish that state's population; antelope were captured near Prescott and relocated to various sites throughout the state; the Family Fishing License was established and made available to the public for the first time; the 1999 Arizona Legislature passed a needed license-fee increase which will benefit wildlife for years to come; the peregrine falcon was delisted after many years of cooperative efforts; and Arizona's nesting bald eagle populations continued to increase.

While our accomplishments have been many, the challenges confronting our treasured wildlife resources remain numerous. Increasing human populations, along with expanding urban perimeters, continue to exert pressure on wildlife and wildlife habitats. Species such as bears, mountain lions, javelina, and coyotes continue to conflict with our expanding human populations and urban lifestyles. More and more encounters between humans and wildlife continue to impose challenges for the Department. We remain confident that our continued application of sound wildlife management practices, coupled with the public's increased understanding and involvement, will ensure the long-term welfare of Arizona's diverse wildlife resources.

Among the year's highlights, the Department captured 37 elk, including the healthy bull on the right, and sent them to Kentucky to help re-establish the elk population there.

Photography by George Andrejko.



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Wildlife Management Division



Pronghorn

Provides program and policy direction and assistance for the management of wildlife;

Develops, monitors, evaluates, and assists in implementation of strategic and operational plans.

Game Branch

In Arizona's largest pronghorn capture ever, the Arizona Game and Fish Department relocated nearly 200 of the estimated 800 pronghorn in the thriving Fain Ranch herd near Prescott Valley. The project's success relied on the cooperation of many people and organizations. Volunteers from the Arizona Antelope Foundation, Prescott Habitat Partnership Committee, and the cities of Prescott and Prescott Valley joined forces with Department personnel from

every Division to construct a corral trap and wing fences, capture and process the pronghorn, and transport them to their new homes. Community development plans influenced the Department's decision to relocate the animals. The

GAME BRANCH

Provides direction for terrestrial wildlife programs for game, waterfowl, predator, and furbearer species;

Recommends annual hunt regulations and conducts hunter surveys;

Coordinates technical planning and reporting for the Heritage IIPAM and Urban Wildlife programs.

operation will help to keep the Fain population in check and to expand pronghorn populations in other parts of the state. The pronghorn were transported to the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, the White Mountain Apache Reservation, eastern Arizona's Eagle Creek area, the Sipe White Mountain Wildlife Area, and the Arizona Strip. With only eight pronghorn mortalities, the Department saw a nearly 96 percent survival rate during the relocation.

Nongame Branch

After decades of fieldwork, we are now well on the way to making the Apache trout the first species of fish to be removed from the federal endangered species list. Activities in various stages of implementation include genetic research; barrier construction to safeguard the streams from contamination by non-native species; stream renovations and habitat improvements; hatchery propagation and stocking into waters in the White Mountains; and outreach activities to rally support for the recovery. These actions are being accomplished through a broad coalition of stakeholders, including the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, White Mountain Apache Tribe, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, academic researchers, several angler groups, and concerned citizens. The final steps to Apache trout recovery will be greatly facilitated by the recent development of a Memorandum of Understanding among government agencies and nongovernmental organizations that formalizes the process by which the many stakeholders can stay involved.



Non-native crayfish received attention from the Department, which modified existing rules to curb their spread and protect Arizona's sport fish, native species, and aquatic ecosystems.



Blindfolded to reduce its stress level, this pronghorn was one of nearly 200 captured from the thriving Fain Ranch herd near Prescott Valley to augment or re-establish populations in other parts of the state.

More than 350 species of crayfish occur in North America. None are native to Arizona. Crayfish were introduced here decades ago as prey for sport fish and to control submerged aquatic vegetation. Unfortunately, they are having a devastating impact on our aquatic ecosystems.

NONGAME BRANCH

Provides direction for programs to maintain, enhance, and restore Arizona's natural biological diversity; gathers information on wildlife and their habitat;

Provides guidance for the management of nongame wildlife and threatened and endangered species;

Provides public information about nongame/endangered wildlife and related recreation issues and activities.

Based on these concerns, the Department recommended the Commission consider modifying existing rules to restrict the introduction and spread of crayfish in Arizona. Stakeholder involvement helped the Department to craft rulemaking that was equitable, as well as protective of sport fish, native species, and aquatic ecosystems. Department outreach efforts generated local and nationwide media attention, which stimulated a surge in recreational crayfish fishing and encouraged conservation

organizations to cooperate with efforts to eradicate or suppress crayfish in sensitive state waters.

At the October 1999 Arizona Game and Fish Commission meeting, scientists, angler organizations, and other interested parties provided comments noting the negative impact non-native crayfish are having on our state's sport fish, native species, and fragile

organizations to cooperate with efforts to eradicate or suppress crayfish in sensitive state waters.

Habitat Branch

With our Coconino National Forest partners, we have made significant progress on the proposed 860-acre Bellemont Shooting Range during the past year. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed by the Forest Service, the Department, the State Historic Preservation Office, the Hopi Tribe, and the Yavapai-Apache Nation to take into account the project's potential effects on historic properties and to satisfy Section 106 responsibilities.

HABITAT BRANCH

Provides direction for habitat evaluation and protection;

Coordinates review and monitoring of activities by other agencies that may impact wildlife habitat;

Administers land and water right programs; negotiates acquisitions and conservation easements; prepares and maintains land use agreements;

Coordinates the preparation of environmental impact documents;

Coordinates GIS and Heritage data management system with other agencies.

In addition, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission entered into a cooperative agreement with the Coconino National Forest to prepare an environmental assessment of the proposal as required under the National Environmental Policy Act. The assessment analyzes the potential impacts of the project on



BOB MALES

Mearns' quail were the subject of a four-year research project which helped the Department to develop strategies and recommendations that will assure the continued abundance of one of Arizona's best known wildlife species.

cultural and biological resources as well as on public health and safety. Following the analysis of public comments, the Forest Supervisor will issue a decision that will determine whether the project area will be allocated for shooting range purposes and the land classified for exchange. A decision to implement one of the two "build alternatives" will allow the Forest Service to issue a Special Use Permit for construction and operation of the range while the land exchange component of the project is being pursued.

Fisheries Branch

Whirling disease, an ailment of trout, has made its first attempt to invade Arizona. Diseased trout obtained from a private hatchery in Colorado were stocked into five private waters in Arizona. Immediately upon learning of this infiltration, the Department initiated cooperative action plans with the lake owners to remove the trout and absolutely minimize any threats to Arizona. These aggressive actions are ongoing. None of our hatcheries in Arizona have been compromised, and if we have our way

they never will be.

This operation has been an outstanding example of state-private cooperation to address a potentially serious problem and resolve it quickly.

FISHERIES BRANCH

Provides direction for sport fish programs, fish hatcheries and fish stocking, and operates the Urban Fisheries Program;

Monitors the water quality of lakes and streams.

Research Branch

Recent conflicts over the management of Arizona's "glamour" quail species, the Mearns' quail, included questions of overharvest and concerns regarding the effect of changing habitat conditions on quail populations. In 2000, the Depart-

RESEARCH BRANCH

Conducts research to assist in proper management of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife;

Develops new techniques to assist in managing wildlife populations.

ment completed a four-year research project which documented that with the exception of local areas that are extremely popular with hunters, hunting has

little effect on quail populations. Also, with the exception of areas with extreme levels of vegetative-cover removal, current grazing practices are compatible with effective quail management. These conclusions were based on quail surveys conducted with trained pointing dogs in both grazed and ungrazed areas and both



Arizona's hatcheries remain free of whirling disease, which has infected trout throughout the Western states.

hunted and unhunted areas. Based upon these data, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission was able to modify the harvest strategy for Mearns' quail to better meet public demands for hunting opportunity. Also, the habitat management recommendations generated for Mearns' quail habitat-selection patterns have been implemented by land management agencies. Thus, as a result of the Department's research program, public input and habitat management practices have been blended to ensure the continued abundance of one of Arizona's best-known wildlife species.

included the purchase of deeded lands with water irrigation and storage rights, leases for approximately 8,143 acres of State land, and the federal grazing lease of 28,544 acres of the Greer Allotment. The deeded properties, which will be managed as the "Grassland Wildlife Area," along with the State lease lands have habitat for species of special concern, such as the Little Colorado spinedace and mountain plover, as well as many game (e.g., antelope, elk, and waterfowl) and nongame species (e.g., ferruginous hawk, Gunnison's prairie dog). They also offer opportunities for fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, and educational experiences for the public. The purchase was made possible with the use of Heritage Funds and through a partnership with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Field Operations Division

Preliminary results of the first year of Chiricahua leopard frog propagation and translocation are encouraging. More than 90 percent of wild-collected frog eggs survived to be released or overwintered



Peregrine falcon

Regional Offices

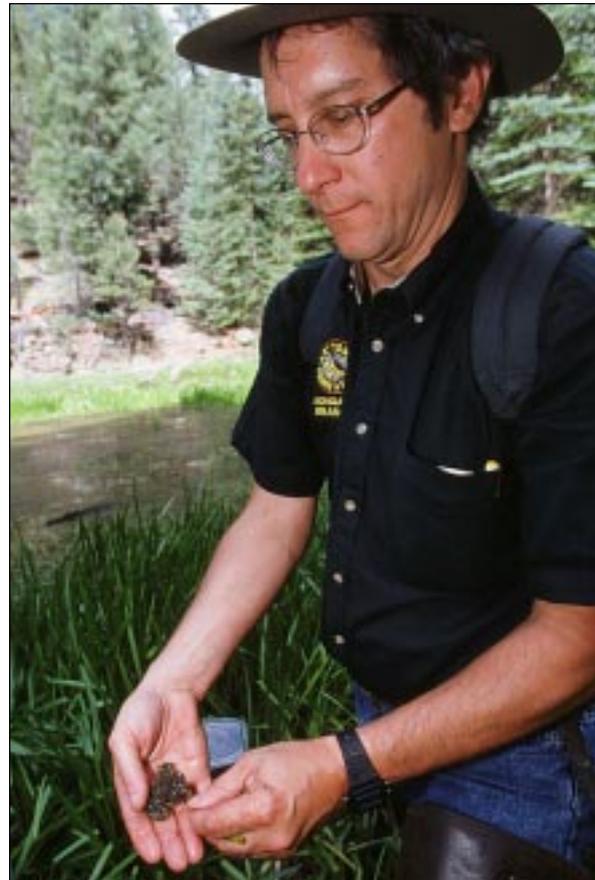
The Department completed the acquisition of the Ocote Ranch, consisting of approximately 1,137 acres of grassland and pinyon-juniper woodland habitat, approximately four miles west of Springerville. The acquisition of this property, along with the adjacent 1,714-acre Cross L Ranch acquired in June 1999, completed a complex and precedent-setting undertaking. The project

Administers programs for fisheries, wildlife, and habitat management; watercraft and OHVs; public information and education;

Administers the Department's Aviation and Law branches;

Organized into six regions administered by Regional Supervisors; subdivided into Game Management Units overseen by Wildlife Managers who

- Enforce watercraft, OHV, and game/fish laws and rules;*
- Implement terrestrial and aquatic management activities;*
- Recommend mitigation, protection, and enhancement of wildlife habitat on state, federal, and private land;*
- Provide public information and education services.*



The Department is having good results with a project to re-establish Chiricahua leopard frogs in the White Mountains.



These elk are being moved to a holding corral where they were quarantined to assure their good health. They were later trucked to Kentucky to help re-establish the elk herd there.

for release next year. During the summer of 2000, 105 frogs and tadpoles were released at a spring pond in the Apache National Forest. Intensive monitoring showed that released frogs had a higher than expected survival rate and quickly colonized all parts of the pond. The purpose of this effort is to re-establish populations of the frogs, which are currently being considered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for listing as a threatened species. Only one known population of Chiricahua leopard frogs exists in the White Mountains, even though historic records indicate they were once common throughout east central Arizona.

What began as an analysis of potential cattle grazing impacts on the Little Colorado River spinedace on the Buck Springs Allotment has become the East Clear Creek Recovery Plan for Little Colorado River Spinedace and other riparian species. The plan includes mea-

asures to improve headwater meadows, reduce grazing impact by livestock and wildlife, burn and thin some forest in the watershed, reduce recreational and road impacts, construct fish barriers, and make supplemental stockings of spinedace. In addition to helping spinedace, these actions will benefit snakes, frogs, mule deer, turkey, band-tailed pigeons, songbirds, and small mammals. The group that prepared the plan included Phil Knight, the rancher who holds the Forest Service grazing permit, and staff from the U.S. Forest Service, University of Arizona Extension Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Department.

A highlight of the past year is the capture and translocation of 37 elk from Game Management Unit 5B to the state of Kentucky to help re-establish the elk herd there. Department employees rebuilt buffalo corrals at Raymond Ranch Wildlife Area, ensured medical checks for animal health, coordinated media involvement, and assisted with capture and transport of the elk to holding corrals. Teams maintained a 24-hour watch during a quarantine period to guarantee the safety of the elk. The valuable cargo was then loaded onto transport trucks for the long haul to Kentucky, where the elk would begin repatriation of their former homeland. The capture took place only miles from where elk were reintroduced into Arizona in 1912-13. Descendants from that successful original transplant are now providing genetic vigor with a proven record to the Kentucky herd.

The Campbell Juniper Project increased the acreage of grasslands for pronghorn by mechanically removing juniper trees on State Trust lands in north central Yavapai County. A hydraulically powered cutter mounted on a small rubber-tired vehicle sheared through dense juniper woodlands, severing trees at ground level with minimal ground disturbance. The project was accomplished through a Cooperative Stewardship Agreement for Habitat Improvement

with the Campbell Ranch. Financial support came from Pronghorn Special Tag funds. Because of the treatment's success, the owners of the Campbell Ranch have purchased a hydraulic shear and are continuing to remove junipers on adjacent private holdings that are capable of supporting grasslands. Their actions have freed up cost-share dollars to continue Pronghorn Special Tag funding of mechanical juniper removal on additional State lands in FY 2000-01.

The first of 12 projects outlined in the Imperial Division Restoration and Enhancement Plan was initiated during the 1999-2000 fiscal year. The plan's preparation was a joint effort by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A need for such a plan became apparent following the 1984 flooding of the lower Colorado River. The flood caused increased sediment deposition, which filled in some wetland areas and reduced flows to the river's backwaters. The first project, a pilot because this portion of the river is critical habitat for endangered razorback suckers, restored the "Old Arizona Channel," provided access to 10 backwater lakes, and increased flows of sufficient quality and quantity to assist recovery of riparian, wetland, and fish and wildlife habitats. As

restoration progressed, sonic-tagged razorback suckers began using the channel and newly accessible backwaters. The only parts of the project that remain are the construction of approximately five acres of new marsh habitat and riparian plantings of cottonwood and willow trees.

The Mineral Mountains southwest of Superior have become a popular destination for off-highway-vehicle enthusiasts. The area has received attention in national 4-wheel-drive publications and on Web sites and has been the site of two national rock-crawling events. In an effort to regulate OHV use and prevent



OHV recreation can continue in the Mineral Mountains thanks to the Department-initiated Middle Gila Conservation Partnership.

damaging and illegal activities, the Department took the lead in creating the Middle Gila Conservation Partnership, a coalition of state and federal agencies and members of the public dedicated to the area's

protection through a comprehensive planning approach. The partnership includes representatives from the OHV community, environmentalists, ranchers, and land managers with a common goal of protecting resources while maintaining recreational opportunities.



DON MITCHELL

The Department is studying the effects of illegally introduced northern pike in southern Arizona's Parker Canyon Lake.

Preliminary studies and a management assessment have been completed to evaluate the impacts of illegally introduced northern pike on Parker Canyon Lake. Initial data show negative changes to the lake's fish communities. Further surveys have been scheduled to monitor the pike and their impacts to both the self-sustaining warm-water fishery and the wintertime put-and-take trout fishery.

The Department cooperated with Congressman Jim Kolbe's office, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership (SVPP) to ensure consistency between the

management intent supported by the SVPP and the proposed designation of the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. The Department provided input on issues relating to wildlife management and public access, and our concerns were fully addressed in the final legislation. The Las Cienegas NCA bill was passed by both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives and is expected to be signed by the President.

A major step in recovery of the endangered Gila trout was taken, with replication of the Spruce Creek strain from New Mexico into Dude Creek near Payson. Approximately 160 Gila trout, ranging from fingerlings to adults, were stocked into Dude Creek, and given the abundant supply of food available to the fish, we expect reproduction by spring 2001. The successful stocking of Dude Creek was made possible by the cooperative efforts of a grazing permittee, several angling groups, especially Trout Unlimited, personnel from the New Mexico Game and Fish Department, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Department employees from three Divisions. The reintroduction was a key action that we believe will lead to the downlisting of the species from endangered to threatened, and even, in the not too distant future, the development of sport-fishing opportunities for Arizona's native Gila trout.



The Department's Watercraft Enforcement and Tactics Survival School assures consistency in training for Arizona's enforcement agencies.

Law Branch

The Department's advanced officer training course, Watercraft Enforcement and Tactics Survival School, was recently featured at the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Conference at Mackinac Island, Michigan. The course was instituted in 1987 to promote consistency in training among Arizona enforcement agencies. Initially set up as a two-day class, course work has been developed and refined over the years. The school is now taught over a two-week period with curriculum organized into ten modules: water safety, marine enforcement law, accident investigation, operating under the influence, watercraft trailering and launching, watercraft maintenance and troubleshooting, watercraft tactics and handling, felony/misdemeanor stops and firearms, and nighttime stops.



BOB MILES

Through the cooperative efforts of government agencies, angling organizations, and private citizens, 160 Gila trout were stocked into Dude Creek near Payson, a major step in the recovery of this endangered Arizona native species.



Visitors to Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area near Show Low are benefitting from the Department's recently completed \$1.7 million project to rehabilitate the lake's spillway.

Special Services Division



Mexican gray wolf

Provides support services for all Department functions;

Maintains finance and accounting support and telecommunications and data processing services;

Manages the Department vehicle fleet.

The Department completed the rehabilitation of the Fool Hollow spillway, a \$1.7 million project. The project culminated approximately two years of hydrologic studies, environmental documentation, archaeological surveys and data recovery, geological investigations, and administering a difficult engineering contract to produce design drawings and specifications for approval and permitting by Arizona Department of Water Resources. As difficult and frustrating as this project became at times, it will always stand as a tribute to the dedication, teamwork, and tenacity of the Development Branch and Support Services employees who worked together through

its myriad of challenges.

Ten water development projects were completed.

Five were new developments, and five were redevelopments involving major improvements of existing waters.

The Department's development crew works in concert with a number of wildlife groups and organizations that contribute time, labor, and funding for the projects.

These include the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the Arizona Mule Deer Association, and the Arizona Antelope Foundation. One of the largest contributors is the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, which worked on five projects during the year. The Society contributed \$107,500 toward these projects and donated hundreds of hours in volunteer labor.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS BRANCH

Provides data processing capabilities, including systems analysis and design;

Provides support for the Department computers, phone system, LANs, WANs, and backbone network connections to Internet, DPS, DOA, and contract data entry services.

DEVELOPMENT BRANCH

Manages programs for water development, habitat improvement and maintenance, boater access, and aids to navigation; develops and maintains dams and fishing lakes;

Evaluates access needs to state, federal, and private lands; negotiates easements on private lands;

Provides engineering functions for feasibility studies to determine design and specification standards and to supervise/inspect contracts for Department projects.

FINANCE & ACCOUNTING BRANCH

Provides finance and accounting support; prepares financial and cost statements;

Oversees watercraft registration, license dealers, and big-game drawings;

Coordinates data entry contract work; processes payments to vendors, contract workers, employees, and other government agencies.

SUPPORT SERVICES BRANCH

Administers procurement; maintains supply warehouse; administers and maintains motor pool vehicles; maintains property/equipment inventory;

Assists in developing equipment budget requests; disposes of surplus property; provides Department printing, mailing, and courier services;

Prepares specifications/bid invitations; conducts dealer mail-outs.

Information & Education Division



Mallard drake

Promotes public awareness of the Department's mission and activities; Provides information and education programs to foster responsible public actions toward wildlife resources.

Information Branch

The Department developed its first Outreach and Marketing plan, which was implemented in each of the agency's five programs (Game, Sport Fish, OHV, Heritage, and Watercraft). Most

of the performance measures for each program were reached or exceeded. Dove hunting was up by 5 percent, squirrel hunting by 108 percent, and fishing by 2.6

INFORMATION BRANCH

Distributes information on wildlife, regulations, OHV, Heritage, Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration programs, and other Department activities; Oversees Customer Service Center and responds to public inquiry; Provides a weekly news service; produces public information on Arizona's wildlife resources, wildlife issues, and watercraft recreation;

Publishes Arizona Wildlife Views magazine, Hunt Regulations, Fishing Regulations, Annual Report, brochures, books, and other printed materials;

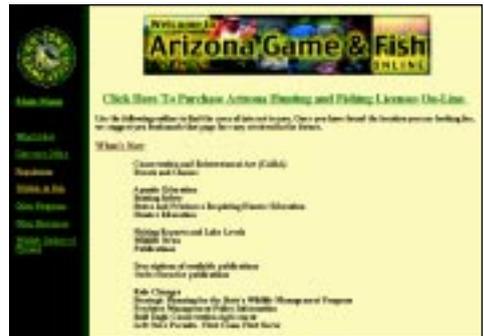
Maintains Department Web Site; supports the publication and editorial needs of other branches and divisions;

Produces TV and radio programs, public service announcements, internal training videos, and slide shows;

Provides still photography for publications;

Provides support for Department and Commission meetings.

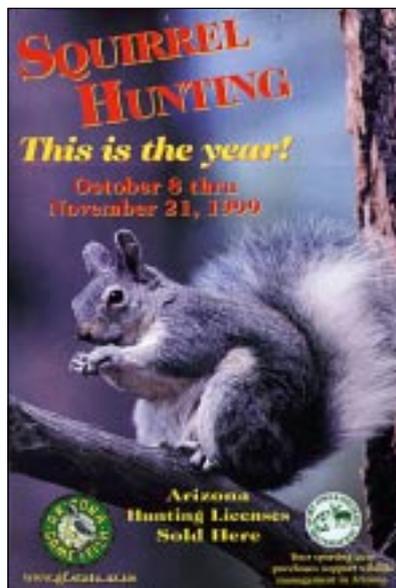
percent; 117,000 OHV contacts and 36,000 watercraft contacts were met. The increase in dove and squirrel hunting is attributed to advertising efforts conducted through license dealers. The spring fishing promotion, "Catch a Memory," was marketed through dealers, on billboards, and door to door. While our fishing target was 5 percent, the 2.6 percent increase was significant in a low-water year. Historically, each time the state has experienced a low-water year, fishing license sales have dropped by 6 to 8 percent. This was the first time they have ever risen in a low-water year.



The Department Web site receives more than 1,200 visits per day. Below, a 108 percent increase in squirrel hunting during the year is attributed to advertising efforts conducted through license dealers.

The Department also wanted to improve its public approval rating from 40 percent in 1998 to its previous average of 60 percent. In a coordinated agency effort, we identified the need to link our Web site to city Chambers of Commerce, to formalize one agency logo, and to include outreach

as a measurable performance in each employee's PASE. We also created a new Web address, standardized our uniform policy, trained employees to conduct outreach and marketing, developed a license-dealer outreach program, increased the limit on the publications revolving fund, advertised agency programs in local media, and participated in nontraditional public events. These efforts helped the Department to increase its overall public approval rating to 66 percent.





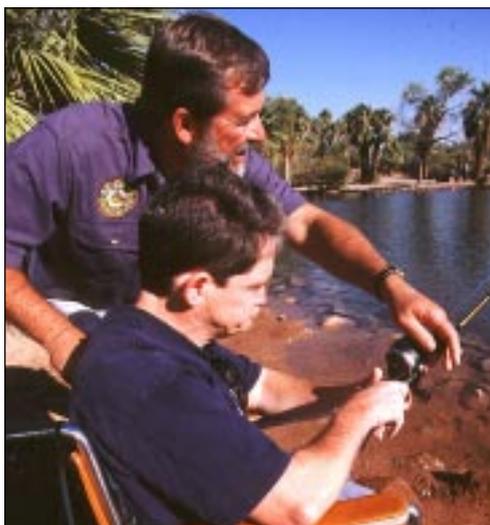
JAMES KURTZMAN

Students at Acacia Elementary School in Vail enjoy their outdoor classroom created with support from the Schoolyard Habitat Program of the Department's Heritage Fund. The program recently received the prestigious Concordia Award.

Education Branch

The Heritage Environmental Education section was awarded the prestigious Concordia Award for Environmental Excellence from the Valley Forward Association. The Schoolyard Habitat Program that was recognized has resulted in valuable partnerships with more than 50 Arizona schools to create outdoor learning laboratories and urban wildlife habitats.

Staff and volunteers conducted well over 750 workshops, seminars, and public outings on a statewide basis. Volunteers



Our Aquatic Resources Education Program presented more than 240 fishing clinics around the state, helping more than 19,000 people learn a new skill.

contributed more than 47,000 hours of time to Department educational outreach programs. More than 200,000 people visited the State Fair Wildlife Building and more than 125,000 shooter days were recorded at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility. Shooter days at Ben

Avery have grown 210 percent in the five years the Department has operated the facility. The Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center handled more than 750 orphaned and injured animals during the year and gave presentations to more than 30,000 people. The Center hosted a conference for wildlife rehabilitators and

continued to serve as a critical link between the public and urban wildlife.

The Boating program conducted over 30 percent more classes than in previous years. The Hunter Education program provided several youth upland-game-bird hunting opportunities, and the Aquatic Education program provided "hands-on" fishing opportunities to more than 19,000 Arizona residents.

EDUCATION BRANCH

Develops and implements hunter, aquatic resources, boating, and environmental education programs; presents wildlife workshops for teachers, hunters, and the public;

Oversees the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at Adobe Mountain which gives public presentations on its activities in caring for injured and orphaned animals;

Oversees coordination of statewide shooting range program and operation of the Ben Avery Shooting facility.

HERITAGE FUND

PUBLIC ACCESS

Identify, evaluate, and administer programs for public access;

Provide information on public access and recreational use of public lands;

Administer Heritage programs for Access Grants-In-Aid, Stewardship, Landowner/Lessee Sportsmen Respect, and Adopt-a-Ranch programs.

URBAN WILDLIFE

Conserve, enhance, and establish wildlife habitats and populations in harmony with urban environments;

Increase public awareness of urban wildlife resources;

Work with local governments and other organizations to reduce the impact of urban development on wildlife.

HABITAT ACQUISITION

Evaluate acquisition proposals to determine their suitability for protection; prepare environmental documents to determine impact of acquisitions;

Acquire suitable habitat to protect threatened or endangered fish and wildlife.

HABITAT EVALUATION AND PROTECTION

Protect and enhance Arizona's natural biological diversity and abundance through habitat management and protection by evaluating proposed projects for their impact on fish and wildlife resources and monitoring environmental compliance and mitigation commitments;

Coordinate GIS and Heritage data management system to track status of threatened and endangered species;

Coordinate land and water rights program.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Promote awareness, appreciation, and understanding of Arizona's wildlife and its environment and increase responsible actions toward wildlife through the educational grants-in-aid program, natural history teacher workshops, and by providing additional resources made possible by the Heritage Fund.

IIPAM — IDENTIFICATION, INVENTORY, PROTECTION, AND MANAGEMENT

Identify and inventory occurrence of Arizona native fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals;

Implement techniques and develop tools for use in the protection and management of designated and candidate sensitive species and sensitive habitats.

Fiscal Year 1999-2000 Revenue by Fund

Game and Fish Fund	\$17,352,600
Watercraft Licensing Fund	2,236,400
Game, Nongame Fund	187,600
Federal Aid Fund	17,475,800
Heritage Fund	9,655,400
Off-Highway Vehicle Fund	746,100
Capital Improvement/Conservation Dev. Fund	463,700
Other Funds	1,426,000
Total Revenue	\$49,543,600

Fiscal Year 1999-2000 Expenditures by Fund

Game and Fish Fund	\$17,341,100
Watercraft Licensing Fund	1,637,200
Game, Nongame Fund	125,400
Federal Aid Fund	17,090,200
Heritage Fund	8,666,000
Off-Highway Vehicle Fund	727,300
Capital Improvement Fund	197,200
Other Funds	1,630,300
Total Expenditures	\$47,414,700

Fiscal Year 1999-2000 Heritage Funds Allocation

IIPAM (Identification, Inventory, Protection, and Management)	\$2,914,848
Habitat Acquisition	1,943,232
Urban Wildlife	1,214,520
Habitat Evaluation and Protection	1,214,520
Environmental Education	404,840
Public Access	404,840
Total Allocation	\$8,096,800

Number of Licenses Sold by Category For 1999

Resident General Fish	208,287
Nonresident General Fish	3,108
Resident General Hunt	65,491
Nonresident General Hunt	13,270
Resident Hunt/Fish	87,195
Nonresident Hunt/Fish	2,197
Nonresident 3-Day Hunt	8,779
Urban Fishing	27,984
Nonresident Colorado Fish	1,422
Nonresident 5-Day Fish	16,760
Resident Youth Hunt/Fish	21,607
Nonresident 4-Month Fish	13,055
Res/Nonres 1-Day Fish	33,956
Resident Youth Group Day Fish	88
Lifetime License	114
Total Licenses	503,313

Sales in Numbers by Groups For 1999

Licenses (See detail above)	503,313
Two Pole Stamps	59,561
Trout Stamps	101,668
Special Use Stamps	94,403
Waterfowl Stamps	8,521
Utah Lake Powell Stamps	2,293
Tags	146,522
Miscellaneous Permits/Licenses	1,757
Total	918,038

License and Tag Sales for 1999

Licenses	\$10,087,298
Stamps	1,320,441
Tags	3,642,409
Other	530,907
Total Value	\$15,581,055

NOTES: All figures are rounded to the nearest one hundred. Capital Improvement and Conservation Development Funds are combined for revenues, as the Capital Improvement Fund earns interest only. The Conservation Development Fund receives revenue from the surcharge on sales of combo licenses and trout stamps. OTHER FUNDS include: Wildlife Theft Prevention, Publications Revolving, Trust/Donation, Waterfowl Conservation, Wildlife Endowment, Land & Water Conservation Recreation Development, Stamp Funds, and the Big Game Permit Fund. (Some of these funds can earn interest only.)

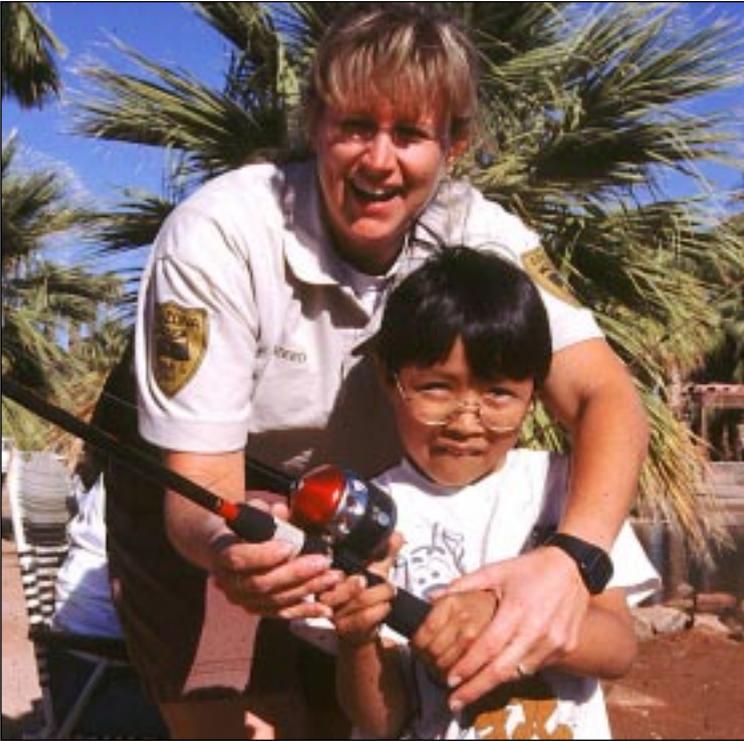
The Game and Fish Commission

Under the provisions of the Arizona Revised Statutes 17-231, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission establishes policy for the management, preservation, and harvest of wildlife. The Commission makes rules and regulations for managing, conserving, and protecting wildlife and fisheries resources, and safe and regulated watercraft and off-highway vehicle operations for the benefit of the citizens of Arizona. In support of the Commission's obligations, the Director, as chief administrative officer, provides general supervision and control of all Department functions and activities.

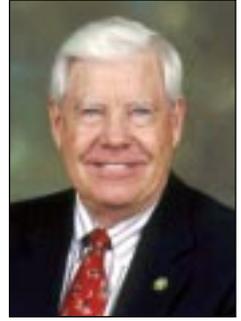
The Commission is composed of five members appointed by the Governor pursuant to ARS 38-211. The Commission appoints the Director of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the Director serves as secretary to the Commission. No more than one commissioner may be from any one county. No more than three may be from the same political party. Each commissioner serves a five-year term, staggered. Commissioners customarily serve as chairman during their last year.

Our Mission

To conserve, enhance, and restore Arizona's diverse wildlife resources and habitats through aggressive protection and management programs, and to provide wildlife resources and safe watercraft and off-highway vehicle recreation for the enjoyment, appreciation, and use by present and future generations.



The Arizona Game and Fish Department prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability in its programs and activities. If anyone believes that they have been discriminated against in any of the AGFD's programs or activities, including its employment practices, the individual may file a complaint alleging discrimination directly with the AGFD Deputy Director, 2221 W. Greenway Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85023, (602) 789-3290 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Dr., Suite 130, Arlington, VA 22203. If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact the AGFD Deputy Director as listed above or by calling TTY at 1-800-367-8939.



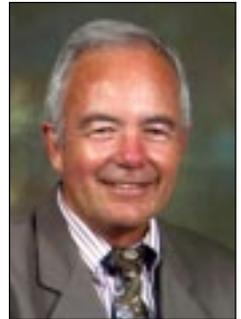
W. Hays Gilstrap, Chairman



Dennis D. Manning



Michael M. Golightly



Joe Carter



William Berlat



ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

June 30, 2000

State of Arizona
Governor, Jane Dee Hull

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